

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 00867 251519Z

47

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /068 W

----- 118685

R 230245Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1727

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0867

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV BP PP

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON SOLOMON ISLANDS AND BDIGAINVPUE

1. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER BAKER, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM TRIP TO HONIARA AND KIETA, GAVE ME RUNDOWN OF HIS IMPRESSION AUGUST 19. HE IS SENDING DESPATCH TO LONDON WITH COPY TO UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON. BELIEVE EA/ANP WOULD FIND DISCUSSION WITH APPROPRIATE BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS USEFUL AFTER ARRIVAL OF DESPATCH.

2. NEW SOLOMON ISLANDS CABINET IS BRIGHTER, BETTER EDUCATED AND BETTER AS ADMINISTRATORS THAN MAMALONI CABINET, BUT LACKS POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND MAY LACK POLITICAL ACUMEN. KENILOREA CABINET BELIEVES IT HAS OBLIGATION FOR INDEPENDENCE PRIOR TO MID-1977. CONSTITUTION HAS NOT YET BEEN DEBATED IN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND PRESSURE FOR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT (PNG'S INFLUENCE) MAY LEAD TO PROLONGED DEBATE. BAKER ANTICIPATES SOLOMON ISLANDS-BRITISH TALKS, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT M 00867 251519Z

NOVEMBER, MAY DRIFT UNTIL JANUARY. BUT HE BELIEVES

MID-1977 INDEPENDENCE CAN BE ACHIEVED.

3. BAKER LEFT HONIARA JUST BEFORE BOUGAINVILLE AGREEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED, BUT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE WELCOMED. HE BELIEVES SOLOMON ISLANDERS WERE UNCOMFORTABLE AT THE PROSPECT OF INDEPENDENT BOUGAINVILLE, FEARING IT MIGHT HAVE AGGRESSIVE INTENTION TOWARDS SOLOMONS. ALSO SAID SOLOMON ISLANDERS RESENTED ADOPTION OF TERM "NORTH SOLOMONS REPUBLIC" BY BOUGAINVILLE A YEAR AGO, FEELING THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO DESIGNATION SOUTH SOLOMON REPUBLIC WHICH HONIARA DID NOT LIKE. BAKER THINKS BOUGAINVILLE AGREEMENT WILL PERMIT SOLOMON ISLANDS AND PNG TO FOCUS ON WIDE RANGE OF SMALL PROBLEMS: BORDER, TRANSIT ACROSS BORDER, TRADE, DEFENSE AND FISHERIES, COMMON LAW OF SEA POLICY, COLLABORATION IN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION, ETC.

4. BAKER SAID AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PNG AND SOLOMON ISLANDS ARE BEGINNING TO DISCUSS COMMON EFFORT IN SURVEILLANCE OF SURROUNDING WATERS.

5. IN BOUGAINVILLE, IT IS GENERALLY EXPECTED THAT FATHER MOMIS WILL RETURN TO NATIONAL POLITICS IN PORT MORESBY, ALEXEI SAREI WILL BE TITULAR HEAD OF BOUGAINVILLE, AND LEO HANNETT WILL RUN THE SHOW. BAKER BELIEVES THAT HANNETT IS SATISFIED WITH THE NEW AGREEMENT AND INTENDS TO PUT HIS SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL TO MAKE IT WORK. BAKER SAHN HANNETT HAS RENOUNCED SECESSION.

HANNETT SAYS BOUGAINVILLE HAS TWO YEARS TO MAKE THE AGREEMENT WORK, AND IF IT DOES NOT WORK, BOUGAINVILLE CAN GO BACK TO GPNG TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER CHANGES.

6. HANNETT REFERS TO BOUGAINVILLE COPPER LTD. (BCL) AS AN ENLIGHTENED FIRM, ACCORDING TO BAKER, AND WANTS IT TO COOPERATE WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF BOUGAINVILLE. BAKER SAID BCL WANTS TO PROSPECT IN OTHER PARTS OF BOUGAINVILLE AND ALSO IN THE SOLOMONS, BUT HANNETT WANTS MORE THAN PROSPECTING.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT M 00867 251519Z

7. COMMENT: THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN PORT MORESBY HAS BEEN SHARPLY DIVIDED ON THE BOUGAINVILLE ISSUE. THE AUSTRALIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS PREACH DOOM AND GLOOM WHILE THE BRITS AND AMERICANS ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE OPTIMISTIC. WHILE I THINK BAKER HAS GLOSSED OVER SOME OF THE INCIPIENT PROBLEMS IN THE RECENT SETTLEMENT A BIT MORE QUICKLY THAN I WOULD, NEVERTHELESS I BELIEVE A FAIR AMOUNT OF OPTIMISM IS JUSTIFIED.

8. GPNG IS MUCH ENCOURAGED ABOUT ITS RELATIONS WITH SOLOMONS NOW THAT MAMALONI IS NO LONGER CHIEF MINISTER. PRIME MINISTER SOMEE RECENTLY TOLD ME THAT HE IS VERY HAPPY ABOUT THE KENILOREA CABINET AND ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE SOLOMONS. ACCORDING TO GPNG PRESS RELEASE, KENILOREA HAS ACCEPTED SOMARE'S OFFER TO PROVIDE OVERSEAS REPRESENTATION FOR SOLOMONS AFTER INDEPENDENCE.
OLMSTED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, SOLOMON ISLANDS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTM00867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760324-0900
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760829/aaaaayou.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTS ON SOLOMON ISLANDS AND BDIGAINVPUE
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, BP, PP, TQ, (BAKER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006